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Letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons addressed to the Director General of that Organization, dated 17 June 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the attached letter to the Member States as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Al-Mouallimi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

In reference to the letter addressed to you by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian regime, No. 301 dated 1 June 2014 and annexed to the correspondence circulated by the Organization's technical secretariat to member States as official documents under the designations D016496 and D016497, which includes claims that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is sending explosive and toxic materials to armed groups in Syria:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly denies the claims and allegations appearing in the above-mentioned letter from the representative of the Syrian regime. It stresses that those claims are untrue, in addition to having no relevance to the work and mandate of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It is no secret to you that the Syrian regime exemplifies State terrorism and has persistently committed crimes against humanity and war crimes against its people. It has done so despite the outcry of the international community, which has indicated that the regime has used chemical weapons against its people. In particular, it carried out a chemical weapons attack on Ghutah, which the international community learned of from the regime itself, on 21 August 2013. It then delayed its response to the Security Council's demand to immediately allow international inspectors to enter Syrian territory to investigate the incident. Moreover, it has delayed in disposing of its chemical weapons arsenal in accordance with relevant resolutions. Instead of taking these actions, the Syrian regime has for a long time been sending you letters of this kind, whose content has nothing to do with the specific obligations incumbent upon it by virtue of the relevant decisions of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the subject of dismantling the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers these claims and allegations to be part of the Syrian regime's efforts to obstruct, delay and divert attention, and to justify its failure to date to fulfil its obligations to dismantle its chemical weapons programme.

Since joining the Organization, Saudi Arabia has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and all the requirements set out therein. It stresses the importance of implementing the Convention in an effective and non-discriminatory manner, in the hope that this will effectively help to promote international peace and security. Saudi Arabia's commitment is an extension of its policies aimed at contributing effectively to efforts to prohibit all weapons of mass destruction and to prevent their proliferation, thereby making the Middle East a zone free of these lethal weapons. For this reason, in every statement it has made on the Syrian chemical weapons programme, Saudi Arabia has expressed its grave concern regarding the Syrian regime's failure thus far to dismantle its chemical weapons programme in accordance with the relevant Executive Council decisions. This raises real questions about the extent to which the Syrian regime is serious about fulfilling its pledges, with the target set for the end of June 2014 fast approaching. It also reinforces doubts as to whether the regime has something to hide. Saudi Arabia reiterates that what is being asked of the Syrian regime is to fulfil its obligations immediately and without stalling, and that it is asked for action, not more letters and sorry excuses, which will not succeed in sowing confusion and

diverting the attention of this esteemed Organization from carrying out its responsibilities.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of your Organization and distributed to its member States.

(*Signed*) Abdullah bin Abdulaziz **Alshaghrood**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons